

NLT 70-60

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

32

2 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

The enemy retains the initiative on all fronts except on the east coast. Enemy forces made slight gains toward Pusan west of Chinju and along the road to Taegu west of Hyopchon. There was little change in the western sector, but UN troops were executing planned withdrawals in the eastern sector. North Korean lines of communication were subjected to the largest number of air attacks yet made by UN forces, and the vital chemical installation of Hungnam suffered heavy damage from two B-29 raids.

II. Sector Reports

The enemy continued heavy pressure in the southwest sector, penetrating approximately 15 miles west of Chinju and four miles northwest of Hyopchon.

In the western sector, heavy pressure was being exerted on the US First Cavalry Division, and enemy forces were building up on the right flank of the US position west of Kumchon. US forces were driven out of Sangju and enemy troops were consolidating their position east of the city.

In the eastern sector, South Korean troops were withdrawing to new positions as ordered. At the same time, an enemy attack was repulsed west of Hamchang, but South Korean troops withdrew from Yechon.

Control of Yongdok on the east coast continued in doubt with enemy forces observed 1500 yards north of the destroyed town with the South Korean Third Division still attacking.

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UN aircraft flew 425 sorties, the largest daily total of the war, and destroyed six enemy tanks, 45 trucks, 1 bridge, and other military equipment and targets. Two heavy raids were reported to have caused heavy damage on the Hungnam chemical center in North Korea, location of the three major industrial-chemical plants in Korea. One was the largest explosive producing plant on the Asiatic mainland, another was one of the largest chemical fertilizer and synthetic ammonia plants in the world, and the third manufactured industrial chemicals, including chlorine, caustic soda, and calcium carbide. From preliminary reports, the explosive and fertilizer plants probably suffered considerable damage in the first two raids.

Shore installations at Mokpo were shelled by UN naval units but no reports of results have been received.

II. Other Developments

A report from Seoul indicates that all persons between the ages of 17 and 30 have been mobilized. The men have been assigned to haul supplies to the battle areas while the women prepare food for the troops and repair roads.

Radio Pyongyang on 31 July announced the arrival of volunteer Hungarian and Bulgarian medical groups. The medical units are apparently scheduled to serve with North Korean troops.

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